

## Claims:

*Sub A1*

1. A holding mechanism for holding a replacement ink ribbon comprising a feed bobbin provided at one end of a strip film and a reel bobbin provided at the other end of the strip film, comprising:  
a first holding member having a feed bobbin receiving portion for receiving and holding the feed bobbin and a reel bobbin receiving portion for receiving and holding the reel bobbin, with the first holding member having an opening; and  
a second holding member having a plate-shape for covering the opening of the first holding member.

2. The holding mechanism according to claim 1,  
wherein a wind slack preventive portion is provided in at least one of the feed bobbin receiving portion and the reel bobbin receiving portion, for preventing a rotation of the feed bobbin or the reel bobbin.

3. The holding mechanism according to claim 1,  
wherein the feed bobbin and the reel bobbin respectively include flanges at both ends thereof, and  
wherein the feed bobbin receiving portion and the reel bobbin receiving portion include flange receiving portions for receiving the corresponding flanges.

4. The holding mechanism according to claim 3,  
wherein a lock portion is provided at each flange receiving portion of the feed bobbin receiving portion and the reel bobbin receiving portion, which engages with a corresponding engagement portion of the flanges to function as a wind slack preventive portion.

5. The holding mechanism according to claim 1,  
wherein the first holding member includes a wind meandering preventive portion for preventing wind meandering of the strip film by contacting one side of the strip film so as to define lateral movement of the film.

6. The holding mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the first holding member includes a support portion that supports the first holding member such that, when the holding mechanism is disposed on a plane surface with the opening facing upward, the opening is substantially parallel with the plane surface.
7. The holding mechanism according to claim 6, wherein a bottom surface of the support portion is a flat surface.
8. The holding mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the feed bobbin receiving portion and the reel bobbin portion of the first holding member are so positioned that the feed bobbin receiving portion and the reel bobbin receiving portion can receive and hold the feed bobbin and the reel bobbin at an interval identical with that between the feed bobbin and the reel bobbin when printing.
9. The holding mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the first holding member is formed of synthetic resin, and wherein the second holding member is formed of paper.
10. The holding mechanism according to claim 9, wherein the second holding member has a cut-planned line at substantially the center portion thereof.
11. The holding mechanism according to claim 10, wherein the cut-planned line is composed of perforations.
12. The holding mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the second holding member has, on a surface facing the first holding member, an index for loading in place the replacement ink ribbon in an ink ribbon loading apparatus.